

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Date: January 11, 2005

**JOSÉ M. SANCHEZ**

Chairman

**JOHN F. NELSON**

Clerk of the Board

**TOMMIE C. MARTIN**

Vice-Chairman

By: Marilyn Brewer  
Deputy Clerk

**SHIRLEY L. DAWSON**

Member

Gila County Courthouse  
Globe, Arizona

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PRESENT: José M. Sanchez, Chairman; Tommie C. Martin, Vice-Chairman; Shirley L. Dawson, Member; John F. Nelson, County Manager/Clerk; Marian Sheppard, Chief Deputy Clerk; and, Bryan Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Deputy County Attorney.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in Work Session at 10:00 a.m. this date. Supervisor Dawson led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Reverend Lyle Johnston of St. Paul's United Methodist Church delivered the Invocation.

Juley Bocardo-Homan, Senior Personnel Analyst, read aloud letters of nomination and presented the January I'MAGE (I'm A Great Employee) awards to the following Gila County employees: Lonnie Cline of Public Works; Tammy Glen and Gilbert Olivarez of the Sheriff's Office; and, Sine Scott of Public Works.

Chairman Sanchez moved to agenda item number 4 stating that he would return to agenda item number 3 later as the Arizona Public Service Company presenters were experiencing technical problems in setting up the equipment for their presentation.

Jacque Griffin, Assistant County Manager/County Librarian, presented a packet of information to the Board on the Wellness Program which is a program implemented by the six Arizona counties that participate in a health

insurance program through the AZLGEBT (Arizona Local Government Employee Benefit Trust). She advised that the Wellness Program was implemented throughout all participating counties in an effort to encourage employees to take preventive health measures and to help keep down the cost of claims and premiums. She presented a chart which showed the medical claims cost comparison for the years 2000 through 2004 and went over the statistics for various illnesses, noting that “diseases of the circulatory system” ranks first in claims costs, but “neoplasms,” which is the category for cancer and used to be one of the top three illnesses, is now ranked number six. She spoke about the Wellness Diary which will be given to each employee to begin this year by promoting a better lifestyle; last year a Health-Wise medical handbook containing definitions and symptoms of typical illnesses was given out to all employees. Other charts Ms. Griffin presented to the Board included the medical and prescription drug claim experience analysis, and a 2002-2004 comparison of the six counties participating in wellness events and activities that were scheduled throughout the year. In conclusion, Ms. Griffin presented the 2005 AZLGEBT Wellness Events Calendar. Vice-Chairman Martin questioned if the County can track employees who don’t participate in the Wellness Program. Ms. Griffin stated that the County does not track employee participation, other than assigning points for the completion of wellness exercises which each employee must document in their Wellness Dairy. Ms. Griffin advised that some wellness program employee exercises are not allowed to be tracked because of HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act) regulations; however, she stated that there is good participation from most departments. Vice-Chairman Martin also questioned whether the County received employees’ scan/test results and, if so, could efforts be made to further educate those employees who receive poor scan/test results on possible methods to help improve the employee’s health. Ms. Griffin replied that the results of any scans/tests are sent directly to the employee’s doctor to ensure confidentiality and she reiterated that the County receives no related

information. Chairman Sanchez thanked Ms. Griffin for her presentation and stated that since Gila County became involved in the Wellness Program, it has been a win-win situation for both the employees and the County.

At this time, Chairman Sanchez returned to agenda item number 3 and called on Mr. Bill Marshall, Arizona Public Service (APS) Company District Manager. Mr. Marshall apologized for the technical difficulties being experienced with their equipment. He briefly explained how the Share-The-Light Program began and then introduced Mr. Stephen Skaggs, the APS State Outdoor Lighting Coordinator. Mr. Skaggs provided a Power Point presentation on the APS Share-the-Light (STL) Program for the unincorporated areas of Central Heights/Country Club Manor, Lower Miami, and Claypool. Highlights of the presentation were as follows: 1) The history of the STL Program reflects that the program started in the mid-1950s to extend street lighting to unincorporated areas of the State, including Gila County. Those customers participating in the STL Program paid for lighting services on their monthly APS bill. In 1979, the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) determined that the STL Program was illegal. The ACC froze the E-116 and E-114 STL tariffs, which prohibits APS from performing extended maintenance on fixtures and poles. The ACC's goal was to convert systems to either a municipal or improvement district system for those lighting systems, or the lighting system would be removed. Because of the "Dark Sky Legislation," all mercury vapor lights must be removed from service by 2011, and all new lights must be of the 90 degree cut-off type. Gila County STL accounts have many mercury vapor and incandescent lights, which cannot be replaced due to the ACC frozen status on the current rate. 2) At present, 570 residential and 26 non-residential accounts are paying for the existing lights in Central Heights/Country Club Manor, and 636 residential and 58 non-residential accounts are paying for the existing lights in Lower Miami/Claypool STL districts. Currently, four (4) street lighting improvement districts exist in Gila County: 1400 E. Ash Street, Apache Hills, Central Heights and Miami

Gardens. These customers pay for the lighting services through an assessment on their property tax bills which are issued semi-annually. Other STL systems throughout the State have now converted to street lighting improvement districts. Once a district is established, it is possible to maintain and upgrade fixtures and poles throughout the district, including replacing poles that have been removed. Per APS' commitment, all retrofits and replacement of poles/fixtures are at the expense of APS (per the E-58 rate), and any lights that were previously removed will be replaced at the expense of APS. 3) Some scenarios and monthly billing estimates were presented, and 4) Photographs were shown identifying the different types of lighting fixtures that have been used by APS throughout Arizona, with the options depending on funds available. Chairman Sanchez thanked Mr. Skaggs for his presentation and stated that yesterday a program was presented on K.I.K.O. Radio's Open Line to bring this to the attention of the residents. Dixie Mundy, Director of Elections, addressed the second portion of agenda item number 3. She presented the Board and audience with a handout outlining the steps required to form a new street lighting district, along with the applicable State statutes. Ms. Mundy stated that before circulating petitions, the following items need to be completed: 1) acquire a map of the area with a good source being the County Assessor's Office; 2) determine the boundaries of the proposed district; 3) determine whether or not additional light poles are needed ; 4) meet with Arizona Public Service representatives; 5) if possible, determine the start-up cost and the annual maintenance cost; 6) prepare a map and legal description of the proposed district; 7) name the proposed district; 8) acquire a list of property owners within the proposed district from the County Assessor; 9) acquire a petition from the County Elections Division; and, 10) attach to each petition a plat or sketch indicating the approximate area and boundaries of the proposed district. Ms. Mundy further stated that after circulating petitions, the following would need to be completed: 1) file the petitions with the County Elections Division; 2) upon receipt of the petitions, the Board of Supervisors

will set a public hearing on the petitions within 40 days after the filing; 3) a notice of the hearing will be published in the newspaper and mailed to the owners of real property within the district; 4) the County Assessor will determine the number of valid property owners or the percentage of property represented on the petitions; 5) at the hearing, the Board of Supervisors will consider the petitions, all objections, and if the public convenience, necessity or welfare will be promoted by the establishment of the district; and, 6) the Board of Supervisors will determine whether or not the district is to be established. Chairman Sanchez thanked Ms. Mundy for her report. Bill Marshall of APS asked to add a few additional comments as follows: 1) APS cannot circulate petitions; only the residents can do that, 2) APS has both legal descriptions and maps which can be provided to expedite the process faster, and 3) when a district is forming, collectively the residents should appoint one person as the point of contact for the group. Vice-Chairman Martin asked Ms. Mundy what percentage of the owners must sign the petitions requesting a special lighting district before the district can be formed. Ms. Mundy stated that by statute it is a majority which would be fifty percent plus one. Chairman Sanchez asked for public comment. Dan Adams, a local resident, commented that he felt that this discussion was a “waste of everyone’s time” and that more effort should be to change legislation which requires the establishment of rules and regulations pertaining to street lighting districts, etc. Mary Stemm of Miami, Arizona, requested confirmation that the people signing the petition requesting a special lighting district did not have to be registered voters, but rather property owners in that district. Ms. Mundy replied in the affirmative. On behalf of the Board, Chairman Sanchez thanked Mr. Skaggs, Mr. Marshall and Ms. Mundy for their presentations.

At this time each Board member presented a brief summary of current events as allowed by A.R.S. §38-431.02(K). No action was taken on any items that were presented.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors,  
Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

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José M. Sanchez, Chairman

ATTEST:

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John F. Nelson, County Manager/Clerk